



## **WATERWAYS GRANT-IN-AID FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

---

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Waterways Grant-In-Aid for Infrastructure Improvements is provided to local units of government (cities, villages, townships, and counties) and public universities for contracted final engineering and construction improvements, including development and/or expansion of recreational boating facilities. This includes both marinas/harbors (primarily transient facilities) and boating access sites.

### **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

This program was created through enactment of State of Michigan Public Act 320 of 1947, which created the Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC). This program is administered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

### **GRANT GUIDELINES**

Financial assistance is provided equal to 50% of the cost of the infrastructure improvements for transient marina/harbor projects. Up to 75% is provided for boating access site construction projects. Eligible costs include, engineering and contingency costs, as well as costs normally associated with construction of these facilities. In return, the local unit must provide the land free-of-charge and agree to operate and maintain the completed facility. Any final engineering or construction work is to be performed by a professional licensed in the state of Michigan.

Applications for funding are accepted at all times but must be submitted by April 1 of the application year, for funding consideration. Grant applicants must exhibit satisfactory performance on past Michigan DNR grants for proposal consideration.

### **GRANT PROCESS**

Upon receipt of an inquiry from a local unit, the program manager discusses with or visits the local unit and reviews the proposed project to determine available assistance. Typically, a preliminary engineering study is required to determine the design, cost, and feasibility of constructing the proposed facilities (see *Waterways Grant-in-Aid Preliminary Engineering, IC 4751-1*). The local community then submits a grant application for infrastructure improvements to the Michigan DNR, Parks and Recreation Division. If the proposed project complies with planning goals for the program, and is approved by the Parks and Recreation Division, the program manager discusses with the local unit the next step. Project funding proposals are taken to the MSWC typically during the summer of each year. If approved, smaller grants (under \$60,000 State share) are processed. For larger grants (\$60,000 or more), Waterways Commission approval, DNR Director approval, and specific appropriation by the Legislature is required. If all approve and the project becomes a legislative bill, grant monies are typically not available until after October 1 of the next fiscal year.

Infrastructure improvements are conducted by the local unit with matching grant monies. All projects funded through the MSWC must comply with the most recent provisions of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and all other applicable state and federal requirements.

### **FUNDING SOURCE**

The restricted Waterways Fund consists of revenues derived from 1.6% of state gasoline taxes and 17.5% of watercraft registration fees. The level of funding available varies from year to year. Federal Dingell-Johnson funds, from the Sport Fish Restoration Act, may be used to augment project funding.

### **PROGRAM CONTACTS:**

Marinas/Harbors - Paul Petersen, Telephone: 517-335-3033  
Boating Access Sites - Jordan Byelich, Telephone: 517-241-1533

**WATERWAYS PLANNING UNIT  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30257  
LANSING MI 48909**